

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-06 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, OECD

SUBJECT: NEA STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING JUNE 23

REF: STATE 144893

1. SUMMARY. NUCLEAR ENERGY AGENCY (NEA) STEERING COMMITTEE MET JUNE 23 IN ORDER TO DISCUSS, IN ADVANCE OF JUNE 30 IEA GOVERNING BOARD MEETING, LIKELY IMPACT ON NEA OF THREE NUCLEAR R&D PROGRAMS TO BE APPROVED BY GB AT JUNE 30 MEETING. COMMITTEE APPROVED (AFTER MAKING CERTAIN AMENDMENTS) PAPERS CIRCULATED BY SECRETARIAT SEVERAL WEEKS EARLIER ON WASTE MANAGEMENT AND REACTOR SAFETY. COMMITTEE DID NOT DISCUSS BROADER QUESTION OF OVERALL IEA/NEA SUBSTANTIVE AND STRUCTURAL INTER-RELATIONSHIPS. COMMITTEE ALSO TENTATIVELY APPROVED FOR FORWARDING TO BUDGET COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT PROPOSAL TO EXPAND NEA BY 12 ADDITIONAL POSITIONS TO SUPPORT INCREASED R&D ACTIVITIES. END SUMMARY

2. WASTE MANAGEMENT AND REACTOR SAFETY:  
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CONCLUSIONS SECTIONS OF SECRETARIAT PAPERS ON THESE

. TWO SUBJECTS (NEA(75)10 AND NEA(75)8) MET WITH GENERAL SUPPORT, BUT WERE REVISED AND COMBINED INTO SINGLE STATEMENT AS FOLLOWS:

"AFTER HAVING EXAMINED DOCUMENTS NE(75)10 AND NE(75)8 SUBMITTED BY THE SECRETARIAT CONCERNING THE PROPOSALS BEING FORMULATED WITHIN IEA WITH RESPECT TO R AND D IN THE FIELDS OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT AND NUCLEAR SAFETY RESPECTIVELY, THE STEERING COMMITTEE:

(I) AGREED THAT NEA WAS IN A POSITION, WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF ITS EXISTING MANDATE, TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITIES CORRESPONDING TO THE COOPERATIVE NEEDS DEFINED BY IEA, AND SHOULD BE READY, WITHIN ITS OWN PROGRAM OF WORK, TO UNDERTAKE THE FUNCTIONS AND TASKS REQUIRED BY THE PROGRAMS PROPOSED BY IEA IN THESE FIELDS;

(II) AGREED THAT NEA SHOULD BE READY, AS LEAD ORGANIZATION, TO SET UP AND EFFECTIVELY CONDUCT THE PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM ON RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT AND TO CREATE FOR THAT PURPOSE A RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE; THE PRECISE MANDATE OF THIS COMMITTEE, INCLUDING ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE NEA EXISTING BODIES ON NUCLEAR SAFETY AND RADIATION PROTECTION, SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE STEERING COMMITTEE AT ITS NEXT SESSION, FOLLOWING CONSULTATIONS WITH THESE BODIES;

(III) AGREED THAT NEA SHOULD BE READY TO ACCOMPLISH THE TASKS REQUIRED FOR THE NUCLEAR SAFETY RESEARCH INDEX AND THE MULTILATERAL EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON REACTOR SAFETY, UNDER THE AUSPICES OF ITS COMMITTEE ON THE SAFETY OF NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS;

(IV) AGREED THAT ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD BE DEVISED, IN AGREEMENT WITH IEA, FOR SATISFACTORY MUTUAL INFORMATION AND COORDINATION OF THE OBJECTIVES AND WORK OF THE TWO AGENCIES IN THESE FIELDS;

(V) UNDERLINED THE IMPORTANCE OF ENSURING APPROPRIATE LIAISON WITH OTHER OECD BODIES HAVING AN INTEREST IN THIS WORK, IN PARTICULAR THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE;

(VI) AGREED THAT IN FULFILLING THE TASKS DESCRIBED ABOVE NEA SHOULD TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF AND REINFORCE, AS APPROPRIATE, THE EXISTING COOPERATION WITH CEC AND IAEA.

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### 3. FUSION:

SECRETARIAT PAPER ON FUSION (NEA(75)11) ALSO DISCUSSED BUT NOTHING DEFINITIVE DECIDED. PARAS A AND B OF CONCLUSIONS SECTION WERE AGREED TO, SUBJECT TO REVISION (PROPOSED BY FRENCH) OF PARA B AS FOLLOWS:

"THE STEERING COMMITTEE IS INVITED TO AGREE THAT NEA SHOULD BE READY TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY AS REGARDS THE

ORGANIZATION OF SUCH WORK RELATING TO RESEARCH ON FUSION AS MAY DEVOLVE UPON THE OECD." DUTCH SUPPORTED BY OTHERS, INSISTED THAT APPROVAL OF PARA C (AND THEREFORE PAPER AS A WHOLE) BE LEFT IN ABEYANCE UNTIL FUSION POWER COORDINATING COMMITTEE ACTUALLY ESTABLISHED, WHEN PAPER COULD BE REVIEWED AGAIN.

4. COMMENT: COMMITTEE'S DISCUSSION OF THREE PAPERS

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INDICATED THAT NEA IS PREPARED: 1) TO CONTINUE TO SERVE AS "LEAD" COUNTRY ON WASTE MANAGEMENT; 2) TO PLAY ACTIVE ROLE IN FIELD OF REACTOR SAFETY (WHERE U.S. RETAINS LEAD); 3) TO ASSUME WHATEVER TASKS MAY BE GIVEN IT IN THE FUSION AREA, RECOGNIZING THAT THE "LEAD" ON THIS PROGRAM CONTINUES TO RESIDE WITH THE EC (STEERING COMMITTEE DID NOT SPECIFICALLY DISCUSS WHETHER OECD SECRETARIAT SUPPORT TO EC LEAD WOULD BE PROVIDED BY NEA, OR BY IEA). THERE WAS NO REAL DISCUSSION OF BROADER

QUESTION OF WHAT THE LONG-TERM SUBSTANTIVE AND  
STRUCTURAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE NEA AND IEA MIGHT,  
OR SHOULD, BE.

5. BUDGET:

DEPUTY DIRECTOR WILLIAMS SUBMITTED REQUEST FOR 12  
NEW POSITIONS TO COVER EXPANDING WORK-LOAD IN AREAS OF  
WASTE MANAGEMENT, REACTOR SAFETY, AND ENLARGEMENT AND  
DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES. HE SAID  
THESE POSITIONS (WHOSE COST WOULD BE OFFSET BY THE  
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CONTRIBUTION PROVIDED BY NEW CANADIAN MEMBERSHIP IN NEA)  
WERE NEEDED REGARDLESS OF WHATEVER NEW RESPONSIBILITIES  
MIGHT FLOW TO NEA FROM IEA. WILLIAMS INSISTED THAT  
UNLESS STAFFING INCREASES WERE APPROVED, EXISTING AGENCY  
PROGRAMS WOULD HAVE TO BE CUT ACCORDINGLY. PROPOSALS  
RECEIVED STRONG SUPPORT FROM SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES,  
SWITZERLAND AND FRANCE. UK WAS RESERVED, POINTING OUT  
THAT MORE TIME WAS NEEDED TO SEE HOW IEA INITIATIVES IN  
R&D AREA IMPACTED ON NEA WORK. DUTCH AND JAPANESE  
SUPPORTED UK, LATTER POINTING OUT THAT POSITIONS SHOULD  
BE TAKEN FROM ELSEWHERE WITHIN EXISTING NEA STAFFING  
STRUCTURE. CHAIRMAN SUMMED UP BY SAYING THAT HE  
INTERPRETED SILENCE FROM ALL OTHER DELEGATIONS AS  
IMPLYING TACIT SUPPORT FOR NEW STAFFING PROPOSALS AND  
SAID BUDGET PROPOSAL THEREFORE WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO EARLY  
JULY MEETING OF BUDGET COMMITTEE. RESERVATIONS BY THREE  
DELEGATIONS WOULD BE NOTED. AT END OF BUDGET DISCUSSION,  
AND IN RESPONSE SPECIFIC REQUEST OF CHAIRMAN, U.S.  
DELEGATE PROVIDED FOR RECORD U.S. POSITION RE JOINING  
NEA (PARA 11, REFTEL).

6. IEA/NEA LIAISON ARRANGEMENTS:

THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION AT MEETING OF U.S. PROPOSAL  
(PARA 8, REFTEL) FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF FORMAL LIAISON  
ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN IEA AND NEA TO ENSURE PROPER  
COORDINATION OF NUCLEAR ENERGY POLICY BETWEEN TWO  
AGENCIES. INITIAL REACTIONS OF SEVERAL OTHER DELEGA-  
TIONS, IEA OFFICE DIRECTOR KELLY AND R&D OFFICIAL BOXER,  
HOWEVER, HAVE BEEN RATHER NEGATIVE. THEY BELIEVE  
PROBLEM CAN BE SOLVED IN MORE INFORMAL MANNER, AND THAT  
PRESSING FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF MORE FORMAL ARRANGEMENTS,  
INCLUDING PERHAPS ANOTHER COMMITTEE, WILL GENERATE  
OPPOSITION WITHIN NEA, PARTICULARLY FROM FRENCH.  
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## Message Attributes

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